AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A printer adapted to be connected to a host computer and to receive data including control commands from the host computer, comprising:

a receive buffer for temporarily storing received data;

a data interpreter for interpreting the data in said receive buffer;

control means responsive to said data interpreter for controlling the printer;

state detection means for detecting whether the printer is in a first state in which data is received and the received data is not printed, or in a second state in which data is received and the received data is printed;

clearing means for clearing the receive buffer,

characterized in that said clearing means is effective for automatically clearing said receive buffer immediately after said state detection means detecting said first state without need of a real-time buffer clearing command from said computer; and

a data discarding means for discarding print data and not discarding command data received from said host computer while said printer is in said first state.

2. (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting a data handling mode that determines how data are handled when said printer is in said first state; and

reading means for reading said data handling mode in response to said printer entering said first state, as determined by said state detection means;

wherein said clearing means is adapted to clear said receive buffer only when said data handling mode is set to allow clearing of said receive buffer.

3. (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 2, wherein said setting means is adapted to set said data handling mode in response to a specific control command from said host computer.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Currently Amended)   The printer of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein said data discarding means is adapted to discard data only when said data handling mode is set to allow discarding the data received from said host computer.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The printer of claim 1, further comprising a print buffer for storing expanded print data, wherein said clearing means is adapted to clear both said receive buffer and said print buffer.

7.   (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 1 wherein said first state is an off-line state in which said data interpreter does not interpret received print data and does interpret received command data, and said second state is an on-line state in which said data interpreter interprets all received data.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a printer, comprising the steps of:

    (a) detecting whether said printer is in a first state in which data is received and the received data is not printed or in a second state in which data is received and the received data is printed;

    (b) automatically clearing a receive buffer for temporarily storing received data immediately after said printer entering said first state without need of a real-time buffer clearing command from said computer; and

    (e) discarding print data and not discarding command data received from a host computer after said receive buffer was cleared in step (b) and until step (a) detects said second state.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 8, wherein step (b) is accomplished immediately after said first state is detected in step (a).

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

    (c) setting a data handling mode so as to either allow or not allow clearing of said receive buffer; and

    (d) reading said data handling mode in response to detection of said first state in step (a);

wherein step (b) comprises clearing said receive buffer only when said data handling mode read in step (d) allows clearing of said receive buffer.

11. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 10, wherein step (c) is accomplished according to a specific control command from a host computer.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein step (e) comprises discarding data only when said data handling mode read in step (d) further allows discarding the data received from a host computer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising a step of:
        (f) saving in said receive buffer data received from a host computer after said receive buffer was cleared in step (b) and until step (a) detects the second state.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising a step of:
        (g) clearing said receive buffer when said second state is detected in step (a) after said first state had been detected previously.

16. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 8, wherein step (b) comprises clearing said receive buffer and a print buffer.

17. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 15, wherein step (g) comprises clearing said receive buffer and a print buffer.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said first state is an off-line state and said second state is an on-line state.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A printer adapted to be connected to a host computer and to receive data including control commands from the host computer, comprising:
        a receive buffer that temporarily stores received data;

a data interpreter that interprets the data in said receive buffer;

a controller responsive to said data interpreter that controls said printer;

a state detector that detects whether said printer is in a first state in which data is received and the received data is not printed, or a second state in which data is received and the received data is printed;

a clearing unit that clears said receive buffer,

wherein said clearing unit is effective for automatically clearing said received buffer immediately after said state detector detecting said first state without need of a real-time buffer clearing command from said computer; and

a data discarding unit that discards print data and does not discard command data received from said host computer while said printer is in said first state

22.   (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 21, further comprising:

a setting unit that sets a data handling mode that determines how data are handled when said printer is in said first state; and

a reading unit that reads said data handling mode in response to said printer entering said first state as determined by said state detector;

wherein said clearing unit is adapted to clear said receive buffer only when said data handling mode is set to allow clearing of said receive buffer.

23-27. (Cancelled)